

QUESTIONS FILED

If an Innocent Man is Punished,
What Then?

AS TO PERIL OF REAL CRIMINAL

Statutes and the Principles of Law.
Court Holdings—Finding the Ho-
rizon From Elevations.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you please answer through your columns the following question:

If a man is hung for murder, and later is found out to have been innocent by the confession of another, can the man that confesses be brought to trial and punished?

By answering the above, you will oblige an old subscriber as well as deciding an argument.

Respectfully, HAMAKUA.

[The answer to this question, involves like most law propositions, some doubt. We believe that lawyers would generally agree in the opinion that the person confessing the crime could be legally punished. The law looks for the guilty party. The punishment of an innocent person does not punish the guilty.

Our statute reads: "Whoever is guilty of murder in the first degree shall suffer the punishment of death." If a man suffers who is not guilty, how does that suffering release the person who is guilty?

We hear that it has been held by some Courts that in a case like the one presented the person confessing the crime cannot be punished. But in forty-five different States, it is impossible to say what the Courts would hold. Until there are some uniform decisions in such a case, we should say that there was no general law on the subject. But reasoning from principles, we would say that the confessing person might be punished.—THE EDITOR.]

Honolulu, H. I., Feb. 8.

MR. EDITOR:—It is said that no matter at what elevation you may be you will always be on a level with the horizon. For instance, if you stand on Mount Tantalus and sight through a telescope set with spirit level you will look directly at the horizon instead of the sky above it. What is the reason?

This note was submitted to a Government official who has for a quarter of a century or more made a business of looking through telescopes set level. He said he was reminded of the famous question of why was it that a glass full of water would not run over if a fish were dropped in it. The answer was that the glass would run over. A sight from Tantalus or any elevation through a telescope set level, said the official at once, would disclose the sky. He then produced Bowditch and explained "dips," etc., as understood in connection with triangulations and marine calculations. Another story brought out by this veteran related to the occasion on which Benjamin Franklin hoaxed the French Academy of Sciences. On leaving the assembly hall one day he touched his hand against the leather covering of the umbrella rack and found that one side of it was quite heated from exposure to the sun. He gave the rack half a revolution and then called a number of his colleagues and suggested an investigation as to why the side of the rack that was away from the sun was heated. This was one of "Poor Richards" jokes and it made a tremendous hit.

HOMESTEADER'S PETITION.

Puna Landholders Will Ask for Branch Roads

The Hilo Tribune says that Mr. Wm. Goudie of Puna while in Hilo last week had a petition drawn up in English and Hawaiian, which will be signed by the homesteaders of Nanawale and Kaohi and by others who are desirous of taking up lands on these homesteads if there were roads leading to them. The petition states that those living on the lands of Nanawale took them up with the understanding that a road should be built. It has been now five years since the lands were opened and no road as yet is built. The lands of Kaohi although fertile and valuable for coffee growing have not been taken up as rapidly as they would otherwise on account of the lack of road connection. If the road is built, Mr. Goudie says he will keep it in repair at his own expense. The petition will be presented to the Legislature at the next session.

New Coffee Pulper.

A Hilo Tribune reporter lately at Honokaa was shown the inmost mysteries of the Rickard Patent Coffee Pulper, by the inventor personally. The whole affair consists of a large round wheel, two small cog wheels,

a cylinder and a plain and grooved roller each. The coffee is thrown into the receiver and after passing through the machine the beans drop at one end and the red pulp at the bottom. It works to perfection. The machine is very light and can be run by hand without much effort. From 5 to 6 bags of berries can be pulped per hour. Mr. R. T. Rickard, the other day, pulped 78 pounds of berries in nine minutes.

Hilo Masons.

Andrew Brown, District Inspector, Jos. Little, Arch. Gillfillan and half a dozen other prominent Masons will leave by the next Kinau for Hilo to do some work for the order at that place. Mr. Brown will deliver to Kilauea Masonic Lodge at Hilo, its charter and will direct the installation of officers. The lodge there has been working under dispensation for a year, but will now be firmly attached to the Grand Lodge of California. Masonry has made progress with everything else in Hilo and the lodge there, with its neat Hawaiian name, is thriving and growing. Robt. More is the master.

Extensive Road Building.

W. E. Rowell, Superintendent of Public Works, has finished several sections of his report and is sending them to the printer through the Interior office. The chapter on roads will be of particular interest. For the eighteen months ending with 1897, there has been built on the Island of Hawaii, under the direction of Mr. Bruner, 92 miles of road, opening up an immense area of new land. On Maui there has been built 17 miles of new road. Kauai has been pretty well fixed for roads for some time. Oahu during the period has had only about four miles of new road added to the system.

Up On Hawaii.

The Tribune says: The Hamakua portion of the Ooakala gulch new road is nearing completion. When this cut is finished people will be able to drive from Maulua straight to Kawaihae or Mahukona.

The new Ahualoa school, back of Honokaa village, has been lately completed. The school has three rooms and now houses over 150 children from the homesteads. Mrs. Estep, assisted by two other teachers is in charge.

There is talk of forming a Foresters' Club in town. A gentleman of the order of Honouliuli is putting his shoulders to the task and expects to carry it through.

Three Baby Boys.

The wife of Ah Chong, Chinese sexton for St. Andrew's Cathedral, gave birth on Tuesday night to triplets—boys. There are now four male children in the family. The three new boys and the mother, who is an intelligent Christian woman, are doing well. Ah Chong has a host of friends all over town and has received many congratulations and messages of aloha for the triplets.

New Theosophical.

A beginners' class in Theosophy will be started this Thursday, at 7:30 p. m., at the residence of Dr. Shaw, King street, near Mr. Bowler's. All who intend to join are requested to be present or to communicate with Dr. A. Marques, telephone 550. Quite a number of adherents have already been received. The text book used will be "Ocean of Theosophy."

The Resignation.

A Central Union business session was held last evening following the regular mid-week prayer service. The first action of a formal nature was taken on the resignation of Rev. D. P. Birnie as pastor. Very general regret was expressed over the determination of Mr. Birnie to leave. The matter will now proceed to a conclusion in accordance with the rules of the society.

"Manoa" At It.

John Sylva (Manoa), just recovering from his accident of ten days ago, is in hard training for a trial at George Martin's record for the third of a mile paced flying start. Martin, paced by Terrill and Whitman, made it in 37 1-5 seconds, the same as Sharick, and will try once more, hoping to chop off a second. Manoa, in work last evening, paced by Jones and Bilmartin, made the third in 36 4-5.

Almost a Big Fire.

Frank Godfrey found a trash pile fire back of the Fort street Odd Fellows building about 6 o'clock last evening. Instead of turning in an alarm Godfrey utilized a handy water tap and an oil can and did good service as captain and crew of a fire brigade. In a few minutes more, had not the fire been noticed, it would have been communicated to the frame buildings opposite Wall, Nichols Co.

Mr. Ward L. Smith, of Fredericks-town, Mo., was troubled with chronic diarrhoea for over thirty years. He had become fully satisfied that it was only a question of a short time until he would have to give up. He had been treated by some of the best physicians in Europe and America but got no permanent relief. One day he picked up a newspaper and chanced to read an advertisement of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. He got a bottle of it, the first dose helped him and its continued use cured him. For sale by all druggists and dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents of Hawaiian Islands.

MARRIAGE LAWS CHANGED.

The formalities preceding marriage in France, which have hitherto been of a formidable character, have been modified, no doubt in view of the dwindling population of the republic. Men over 25 and women over 21 can now be united without the consent of their parents, after presenting a single respectful notification of their intent and waiting one month before proceeding to extremes. Consenting parents are no longer obliged to have recourse to a notary and a formal deed, but may go to the municipal office and register the permission free of cost. When the parents are divorced the consent of the innocent party will suffice, and when they are dead, missing or imprisoned a mere oath fully attested, will serve in place of legal proof.

IN CASE OF FIRE.

Your house takes fire. What burns first? The lightest and most inflammable stuff, of course—furniture, doors, shelves, floors, paneling, and other woodwork. If it is a stone or brick house the walls will probably remain standing—a melancholy sight.

Were not this a principle of universal application Mr. Meddings would never have compared himself to a skeleton, as he does in the letter to which your attention is now invited.

"In the autumn of 1891," he says, "I fell into a low, weak state of health. My ordinary energy appeared to have gone out of me. I always felt tired and languid, and couldn't account for it. Nothing seemed to rest me. I was tired in the morning as when I went to bed. I had a bad taste in the mouth, my appetite was poor, and after meals I had a pain at my chest and left side.

"I was in this condition until the 14th of March, 1892, and then I had to give up work. The reason was, I was too weak to work. In fact, I was so weak that it was about as much as I could do to walk across the floor. Besides this I had a dry, hacking cough, and at night I sweat so the bedclothes were wet. Sometimes during the day cold, clammy sweats would break out all over me.

"I lost flesh rapidly, until I was like a skeleton. My muscles seemed to be shrunken and withered. There was no feeling of warmth in me; it was as though my blood had gone cold and thin. I was too feeble and helpless to wash or dress myself, and people said I was wasting away, as though they expected to see the end of it presently.

"I consulted two doctors and they gave me medicine, but it did me no good. One day my aunt, Mrs. Benton, of Francis Street, Walsall, called, and in the course of talk she said that the medicine that did her good when she was ill was Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Although it didn't look reasonable to believe that it could cure a case as bad as mine, nevertheless my wife got me a bottle from Mr. Grove, the chemist in Park Street, and I commenced taking it. In a few days I found myself much better; my appetite was better, and I had gained a little strength.

"To make the story short, I kept on taking the Syrup and continued to get better. As soon as I could digest my food the night sweats and the cough abated, and in a few weeks I was able to go back to my work. (That is two years ago, and since then I have been in good health for which I have to thank Mother Seigel's Syrup. (Signed) ARTHUR THOMAS MEDDINGS, 115, Farringdon Street, Walsall, March 6th, 1894."

In a fire, as we said, it is the light, inflammable stuff that burns first. That's why Mr. Meddings got to be so ghastly thin. The flesh or fat is the fuel of the body. In health it keeps up the warmth and furnishes the power. And to keep up the fuel we must eat.

Now, disease is a conflagration; it tries to burn the house up, and often does it. And it always burns the flesh up, more or less of it. The fat goes first, the muscles, etc., afterwards. That's the way of it. About that time the tenant moves out.

Our friend was well on towards that point. But it wasn't lung disease that ailed him, albeit he had the cough and the sweats. They go also with indigestion and dyspepsia—his real and only malady. He got feeble and thin because his disease wouldn't allow the stomach to digest food. Hence he consumed all the flesh he had stored up, and then (luckily for him) he began to take Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, which set his stomach and liver right, and gave his vitals a chance to feed him.

All the same, it is dangerous to let a fire get headway. When it is in your body quench the first spark with Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.

Pua Again.

Pua, the long haired native of Kalaalaw, was released from the Insane Asylum on furlough a few days ago, but was found to be still unsafe. In consequence of this, he was returned to the retreat yesterday. Some of the natives living near his home declare they saw him several times with a spear, a tibia and a bundle of clothes walking about and talking to himself.

The first telegraph instrument ever constructed for practical use is soon to be presented to the National Museum at Washington. It was the possession of the late Rev. Dr. Schell, of Baltimore, who was for many years an intimate friend of Professor S. F. B. Morse. Before Congress appropriated money to build the first telegraph line between Baltimore and Washington the first practical working line of telegraph was constructed between Dr. Schell's school and his church. It was this line which was shown to the House committee to demonstrate the practicability of the scheme, and which resulted in an appropriation of \$30,000 to construct the Baltimore-Washington line.

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£12,954,542 14 8

Revenue Fire Branch - - - - - 1,577,028 17 9

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Capital of the Company and reserve, reinsurance - - - - - 8,890,000

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